Parsons Nursery, Implement Building
South side of U.S. Route 219, .25 miles
northeast of Parsons
Parsons Vicinity
Tucker County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-237-L

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HABS No. WV-237-L

PARSONS NURSERY, Implement Building

Location:	South side of U. S. Route 219, .25 miles southeast of Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia USGS Parsons Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 17.614281.4327505
Present Owner:	Monongahela National Forest Department of Agriculture Sycamore Street, Box 1548 Elkins, WV 26241
Last Occupant:	Cooperative Extension Service Tucker County Commissioners and West Virginia University
Last Use:	Equipment storage/office
Significance:	The implement building, was built in 1934-35 with Forest Service general operating funds, as a part of the Parsons Nursery of the Monongahela National Forest. It was used for equipment and machine storage. It is the sole survivor of three similar buildings used for storage at the nursery. For overview of Parsons Nursery, see HABS No. WV-237.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1934-5, derived from a photograph dated May, 1935, that shows the building (WV-237-16).

2. Architect: Architect is uncertain, landscape architect is unknown. The plan/elevation sheet is signed by George W. Root, who was Examiner of Surveys for the Southern Region of Monongahela National Forest in 1926. Probably D. A. Oliver, nursery manager, and Root designed this and other early Parsons Nursery buildings.

3. Original and present owner: Monongahela National Forest.

4. Builder: The implement building was constructed for Monongahela National Forest by contract labor, according to John King.

5. Original Plans: The design is adapted from plans for an "equipment storage depot" designed by George W. Root and "J. C. D." in July, 1928, two sheets. This building has the plan reversed, with the shop on the right end. The roof is asbestos shingles, which has replaced cedar shingles.

6. Alterations and additions: In 1986, the side windows, shop door, shop interior and siding on the front of the shop were replaced, following damage by a flood in November, 1985.

B. Historical Context:

The implement building was constructed about the same time as its neighbors, the seed extractor building and the cone drying shed, in 1934 or 1935. Construction was near the end of the initial expansion of the Parsons Nursery. After 1933, the plots of nursery land across from the administrative complex were leveled, planted and enriched. The nursery manager had moved to the Nursery Bottom. With the construction of the cone drying and seed extracting operation, the nursery was ready for maximizing its production. In 1934, the Parsons Nursery already had a workshop/warehouse, a garage and two equipment and straw storage buildings. A third equipment storage building meant all machinery was out of the weather. The following three years, 1936, 1937, and 1938 were the largest recorded years of production at the nursery, when over 7,000,000 trees were grown at Parsons and shipped to National Forests east of the Mississippi River.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The implement building is one of a complex of Forest Service buildings constructed in a simple, rustic, gable-roofed, shingle style. This building uses native materials available in Monongahela National Forest, such as chestnut sheathing boards and all framing lumber and it follows the local convention of exterior diagonal wind-brace sheathing with herringbone, centered joints used on the end walls under sawn cedar shingle siding.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is structurally sound and cared for.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: A one-story, rectangular plan, this building is 60'-5" x 25'-0". It has five structural bays across the front, one bay deep. It has no attic.

2. Foundation: 8" poured concrete wall with concrete pad.

3. Walls: Exterior walls are wood shingled with random width cedar cut shingles applied in courses of 7" exposure. There are 5-1/2" plain yellow-painted corner boards. The siding on the east, front, office facade is replacement plywood sheathing. The foundation-roof height at the corner is 12'-8". The foundation-roof height at the peak is 21'-9".

4. Structural system: The building is barn framed with five structural bays. Each has "8x8" corner posts supporting a roof truss. Each truss has a "6x6" bottom chord and "4x6" top chords. There are "4x6" mid-chord braces with 2-1" iron ties rods, threaded and bolted, as "king post". Wall sills are "2x8's"; wall plates are "4x10's", notched into the posts. The in-fill framing between posts is "2x4's" on 14" centers with bridging of "2x4's". Rafters are "2x6's", pieced and overlapped, on 24" centers with a "2x8" ridge piece. The sheathing of walls and roof is random width diagonal sheathing is a chevron pattern on the end walls and all one direction on the front and rear. All framing and sheathing is chestnut lumber.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: None.

6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings

   a. Doorways and doors: There are two sliding front doors and one new, steel, six-panel office door. The sliding doorways have plain, 7-1/2" board architrave with butt-jointed head. The head runs across both doorways. Doorway height is 10'-9". The pine doors have 5-1/2" side, top and bottom stiles; a 4-1/2" mid-stile. The interior and exterior panels are 5" tongue-and-groove boards, placed on the diagonal on the outside, vertical on the inside. Doors and doorway trim are painted yellow.

   b. Windows and shutters: Three original windows survive on the rear and one on the north. Window frames are plain, 4-1/2" butt-jointed jambs and heads. There is a 4-1/4" jamb between the double windows. There are metal drip caps that extend 1" beyond the heads; 1-1/2" window sills. All sash is 6/6, double hung. Original window sash and trim are painted yellow. The south and one north elevation window sash is replacement, 3' x 1'6 and 3' x 3' aluminum sliding sash set in the old opens with plywood fill around the top of the space. There never have been shutters.

8. Roof: The gable roof has asbestos shingles, a replacement of the original sawn cedar shingles. It has exposed rafter ends with no fascia. The wooden, rectangular gutters are intact (see WV-237-J-3). On each gable end the "2x8" rake board is notched so that the "4x4" wall plate and "4x4" ridge piece extends just past the rake boards. The cornice, exposed rafters, and gutters are painted yellow. The gable end overhang is 13", including the rake board; the eave overhang is 22". There is a galvanized pipe for electrical supply attached to the north corner of the building.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The rectangular building has two rooms with a partition between the north bay and the south four garage bays.

2. Stairways: None.

3. Flooring: The floor is unpainted concrete. There is a plywood deck in the newly constructed extension agent office.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The framing is exposed in the

south garage end. A new stud wall separates the extension agent office, which has new plywood paneling.

5. Openings:

   a. Doors: The garage doorways have no interior jambs or head, but "1x8" facings. The door between the office and garage is new.

   b. Windows: The window frames have 4-1/2" jambs and heads, butt-jointed. The head extends 1-1/2" beyond the jambs. There is a shaped, 1" sill; and 4-1/2" under sill board. All interior trim is chestnut. The sash is shellacked pine.

6. Decorative features and trim: None.

7. Hardware: The sliding door hardware is 2-1/2" diameter iron pipe door carriage, like other sliding doors at the nursery. Each door is hung by iron straps 2' x 7". The hasp and keepers are modern, 1-1/2" x 5". Original windows have brass-plated thumb latches. Two-4" diameter pulley rings are hung on the ridge board in the south bay.

   The vertical tension members in each truss are 1" iron tie rods with square bolts. The corners of each truss are bolted together.

8. Mechanical equipment: There is neither heating nor plumbing. Greenfield electrical cable is surface-mounted to ceramic ceiling fixtures.

9. Original furnishings: There is an original wooden hay cradle stored in the rafters.

D. Site: The building faces northeast, 57°30' . It survives on its original site, together with most of the original nursery structures.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV.

B. Historic views: Forest Service photographs, Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV.

C. Interviews: Al Allison, 7-23-1989, Charleston, WV, Parsons Nursery manager, 1952-57; John King, 9-5-1989, Wanakena, NY, silviculture supervisor, CCC Camp Parsons, 1933-39; Dorsey

Knight, 10-25-1989, Parsons, WV, Parsons Nursery employee, 1932-1951.

D. McKim, C. R., Monongahela National Forest History, unpublished manuscript, November, 1970.

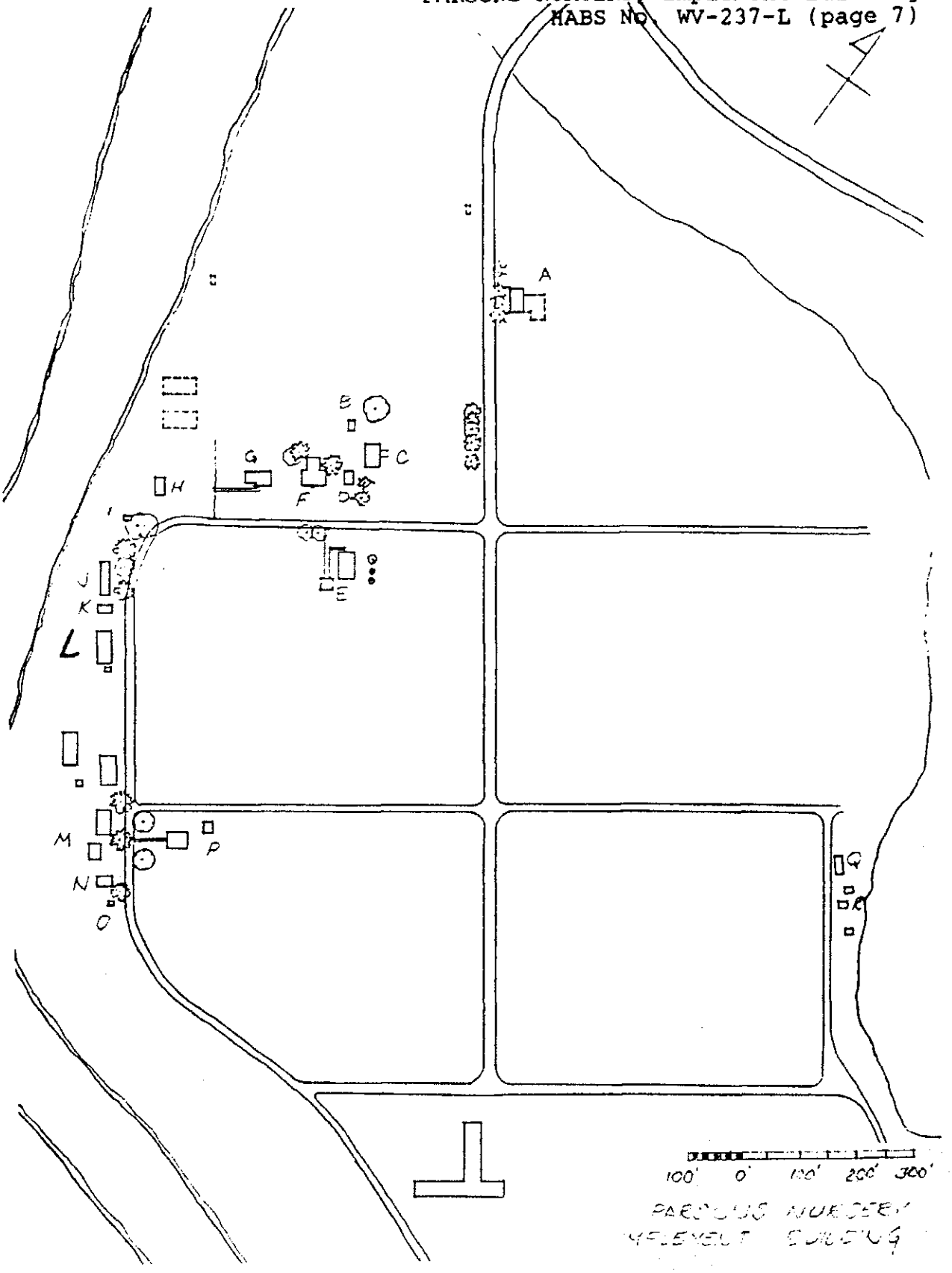
Monongahela National Forest, Parsons Nursery, Special Use Permit, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, unpublished manuscript, 1969.

Pierce, R. G., Map Showing Blister Rust Control, Forest Service Nursery, Parsons, WV, unpublished manuscript, 1930.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The architectural and historical documentation of the Parsons Nursery site has been undertaken to fulfill a memorandum of agreement signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the West Virginia SHPO and the USDA Forest Service as part of requirements under regulation 36 CFR 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Recording has taken place prior to substantial modification and/or removal of structures damaged by a flood in November, 1985.

This documentation has been prepared by: Rebecca M. Rogers, Preservation Consultant, 44 Audubon Road, Youngstown, Ohio, under contract to Monongahela National Forest, April-November, 1989.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PARSONS NURSERY
IMPLEMENT BUILDING

PARSONS NURSERY, Implement Building
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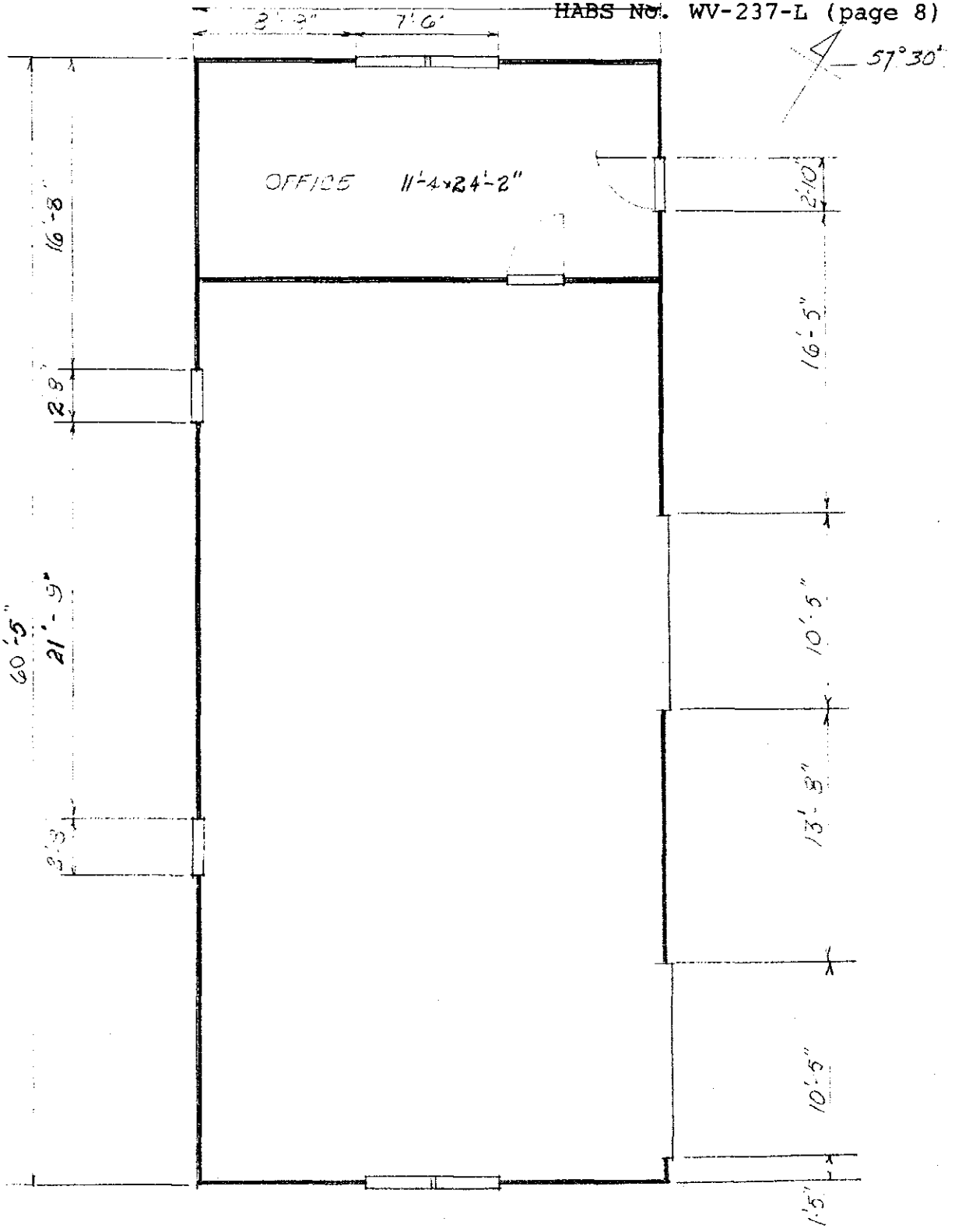

IMPLEMENT BUILDING

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